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RETURN

FOR COPIES of Correspondence, and other information, relative to Schools in the Ottawa District, which may have taken place between the Superintendent of Education, Canada East, and the Inspector of Schools for the District of Ottawa, since the date of the Inspector's appointment.

R E T U R N

TO AN ADDRESS from the Legislative Assembly, of the 22nd ultimo ; For copies of correspondence, and other information, relative to Schools in the Ottawa District, which may have taken place between the Superintendent of Education, Canada East, and the Inspector of Schools for the District of Ottawa, since the date of the Inspector's appointment.

By Command,

GEO. ET. CARTIER,
Secretary.

Secretary's Office,
Quebec, 24th April, 1855.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 4th August, 1852.

SIR,—I beg to inform you that Mr. John A. Hughes of Aylmer, has been appointed by the School Commissioners of the Municipality of Aylmer, their Secretary-Treasurer, in place of Mr. John R. Woods, resigned.

I regret to state that the affairs of the Corporation of Aylmer, have been very much mismanaged. There are several heavy claims upon that body, which remain unliquidated, and it will require several years of good management upon the part of the Commissioners, to extricate the Corporation out of the difficulties with which it is surrounded.

I have been twice in Templeton but have been unable to see all the parties, I proceed thither this day, as well as to Buckingham, and will transmit you, upon my return, a general report of the state of Education throughout the District of Ottawa.

I beg to request that in any of your future communications with the Commissioners, you will be pleased to correspond with Mr. Hughes as Secretary-Treasurer. My principal reason in requesting this, is, that the moneys may be applied to the purposes for which they are intended, viz ; the payment of the Teachers.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
S. I.

J. B. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 1st September, 1852.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that during the months of May and June last, I visited the different School Municipalities in this County, in conformity with your Instructions and with the Act 14th and 15th Vict., ch. 97, and

during the month of July, I paid another visit to several of those Municipalities, proceeding westerly as far as the Township of Clarendon, and easterly as far as Buckingham, besides that I aided to the election of School Commissioners where the law has not been in operation for several years past. I may state, however, that in my interference at the Elections, I by no means endeavoured to control the electors in the choice of individuals, I contented myself with pointing out to them the law, besides endeavoured to inculcate the principle of the selection of such persons as manifested an anxiety to carry out the provisions of the School Act, in addition to being possessed of good literary attainments.

I regret to have to state that Education has been retrograding in this County for several years back. I will not in this preliminary report mention the causes which have led to this retrogression, reserving my remarks thereon, until my general report, which you will receive about the 26th instant.

I have much pleasure, however, upon the present occasion, to have to report that a better state of things already begin to shew themselves, and that several of those Municipalities that were formerly most clamorous in their opposition to the School Act, have lately come forward and displayed much alacrity in carrying the provisions of that Act into effect.

The seat of my chief difficulty has been in the Township of Clarendon, the Demagogy which contend against the law. I have much pleasure, however, in stating that the Clergy of all denominations, the Magistracy, and the most respectable of the inhabitants, have named the undermentioned gentlemen as School Commissioners for that Township, and requested me to transmit their names, through you, to His Excellency the Governor General, soliciting their immediate appointment. It appears to me that a large majority of the population are desirous to conform without delay to the School Act, as they already feel the consequences accruing from their children growing up in a state of ignorance.

The Township of Musham, which is situated north of the Township of Hull, and only about twenty miles from Aylmer, containing, by the late census, a population of over 1000 souls, is desirous of being erected into a School Municipality. They have already, I understand, called upon you for that purpose, and the parties nominated as School Commissioners are unexceptionable.

The inhabitants of the Townships of Mansfield, Waltham, Chichester and Sheen, situated upon the northern Banks of the River Ottawa, west of the Township of Litchfield, are also desirous of having those Townships erected into Municipalities, and I would recommend that the views of the inhabitants be complied with, and beg to transmit the names of the following gentlemen, as fit and proper persons to fill the Office of School Commissioners.

The affairs of the Township of Templeton will meet my immediate and prompt attention.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,) J. J. RONEY, S. I.

J. B. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

Persons eligible to act as School Commissioners for the foregoing Municipalities in the County of Ottawa.

TOWNSHIP OF CLARENDON.—J. A. Sturgeon, M. D., Messrs. Archibald Muir, J. P.; Thomas Carrigon, Thomas Wilson and James Hodgins, of Clarendon.

MANSFIELD AND WALTHAM.—Messrs. George Bryson, Alexander Proudfoot and William Dickson, of Mansfield, Patrick Whalin, John Coghan, of Waltham.

CHICHESTER AND SHEEN.—Messrs. Thomas Harrington, John Downey and Augustus Perrault, of Sheen, John McDonald and James McCool, of Chichester.

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY, S. I.

Aylmer, 1st Sept., 1852.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 11th November, 1852.

SIR,—You will here receive three receipts in duplicate, being amounts received from you, by Mr. Hagan, Sec. Treasurer of the Municipality of Templeton. The old books of which no one could inform me their whereabouts I have at last traced to A. Cullen, Esq., J. P., of Templeton, who delivered them into my hands about the 25th October last, after which, I proceeded to investigate the affairs of the Corporation. There was during the period that Thos. Thorsse was Sec. Treasurer, considerable useless waste of public money; but with this exception, the accounts appear to have been correctly kept. Mr. Hagan, exhibiting vouchers for every item expended, and exacting nothing whatever, but his own commission. The Commissioners have at present two Schools in operation, and it would be a matter of regret, should they be deprived of Government aid, when their only fault appears to be placing too much confidence in Thorsse, who certainly abused it.

I have since my last report, visited twice, nearly the entire of my district; there are some remote parts in this extensive County, which it is difficult to reach except in the winter months, and you will therefore excuse me, if I should defer filling up the tables until the close of the year.

I regret that the Township of Clarendon is not the only municipality in this District, that judgment has been obtained against for arrears of the salaries of teachers. Aylmer and the Calumet have likewise judgments pending against them for a period of upwards of one year, and it is much to be regretted that the legal costs in these cases, exceed the debt. The moneys in the hands of the Sec. Treasurers have been seized, and a portion of the amount remitted them for School purposes, for the first six months of 1852, instead of being appropriated to the payment of the Teacher, went to pay legal costs. Such a state of things is really distressing. It is to be understood, however, that the present Commissioners of those municipalities are bent not only on liquidating and arranging those debts, to the best of their ability, but are also determined to prevent a repetition of such like disasters.

My time from the present, until Christmas, will be chiefly devoted to the duties of my office.

Should the Building Fund not yet be exhausted, there are several deserving municipalities, entitled to your favor, and which I shall advert to in some future communication.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY, S. I.

J. B. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS

AYLMER, 24th December, 1852.

SIR,—The inhabitants of the Township of Law, north of Wakefield, on the river Gatineau, have desired through their pastor, the Rev. Thomas O'Boyle, to

be set apart as a Municipality for School purposes, and have nominated the four following individuals, as eligible for School Commissioners, viz:—M. M. Mathew Brenan, Joseph Dayley, A. McDonell, and Caleb Brooks. I would therefore most respectfully direct your attention to this matter, and I beg to state that the parties so nominated are respectable and competent, that it would add materially to the advancement of Education in that Township to have it set apart as a Municipality for School purposes.

I would most respectfully suggest as a fit and proper person, for the remaining Commissioner the Rev. Thomas O'Boyle, who has materially advanced the cause of education in the adjacent Township of Wakefield, which is also a part of his mission.

I commence to-morrow my third general visit through this District, the state of the roads precluding the possibility of my being able to accomplish that task at an earlier period.

It is with much pleasure I have to state that there is a considerable augmentation to the number of schools in this district. I have endeavoured, however, in every instance, in accordance with your general instructions, to inculcate the principle of having as few schools, as is consistent with a due regard to the educational wants of the population, and to have these schools superintended by well qualified teachers. The inefficiency of the means at the disposal of the Commissioners, operates much, however, in the meantime as a barrier to the realization of this end, as men of Education are better remunerated at almost any other occupation on the Ottawa, than following that of instructor of youth.

The insolvency of three out of the eighteen municipalities in the District, gives me at present much anxiety. My utmost exertions will in the meantime be directed to devise some scheme to enable those municipalities to extricate themselves out of this dilemma, and I trust it will be effected in a manner both satisfactory and conducive to the public welfare.

I enclose herewith the recommendation of the Rev. Mr. O'Boyle.

I have the honor &c.,
(Signed)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

J. B. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

AYLMER, 5th January, 1853.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith the Returns of the Municipalities of Aylmer and the Allumettes Island, as well as those of the dissentients of Aylmer.

The schools in the Village of Aylmer are conducted by teachers of fair talent, and those in the Allumettes Island by men whose capacity as teachers is equal to those in almost any other rural section of the District.

The law is in operation in every Municipality in this country, with the exception of Onslow; the inhabitants of which township, however, elected their Commissioners at the proper period, and in accordance with the Statute; it is hence probable that steps may be taken against them for neglect of duty, as the inhabitants are much exasperated at their conduct.

The Returns of some of the distant Municipalities may be a little better than usual this season; but as the law is only in its initiation there, I beg that you will grant them a little indulgence.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMEY, 24th January, 1853.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith the Returns of Mr. Gardner Church, S. T. of the Municipality of Hull, for the last 6 months of 1852.

Having carefully examined all the Schools in the Township of Hull, upon frequent occasions during the past 6 months, I can bear testimony to the fact that there has been a marked improvement in the Teacher's qualifications, as well as in the manner of conducting the Schools.

I have only returned from the western section of my District, and leave this morning for the Petite Nation. I will forward by next mail from Buckingham, the particulars of my late tour.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed)

J. J. RONEY, S. I.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

HULL, 22nd January, 1853.

SIR,—I beg herewith to enclose the returns of the different Schools in operation in this Municipality, and have to request that you will transmit the same to the Superintendent of Education.

I beg also to advert to the fact that Schools have been in operation in this Township for the two preceding years, but owing to the non-operation of the Law, the Teacher's salary is not entirely liquidated, and I will thank you to represent this circumstance to the Superintendent.

The Schools for the past 6 months having been visited by you as Inspector, you can report their progress.

I am Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed,)

GARDNER CHURCH, S. I.
Hull.

J. J. RONEY, S. I.

OTTAWA, AYLMEY, 8th February, 1853.

SIR,—I have the honor to report that during the past month, I made another tour of the District of Ottawa, and that the statistical information called for in your letter of the 23rd October last, will be forwarded in due time.

The state of education in this District altho' not perfect, has much improved during the past 6 months, the number of schools has multiplied at last two fold, and considerable attention has been paid to the qualifications of the teachers.

In the municipalities of the Petite Nation and St. André Avellan, there are six schools, 5 of which are in operation, and well attended, the teachers being well qualified to teach the ordinary branches of a common school Education. Although every exertion has been paid by the Commissioners of St. André Avellan to comply with the Law, two schools being in operation for the greater part of the last 6 months still owing to the settlement being in a primitive state, and the improvements of the settlers of small dimensions, being scarcely sufficient to support the wants of the population, I would most respectfully recommend that the provisions of the Act 12th Vict., ch. 50, and section 5, may be extended to that municipality, and that it may for the past current year be exempted from taxation and receive

its share of the Legislative Grant. The Legislative Grant has not yet been received by me, but it will be forth coming in a day or two, when it will be forwarded.

I have to inform you that F. X. Bastien, Esquire, J. P. of the Calumet Island has consented to act as Secretary-Treasurer for that Municipality, and I have to request that any future communications be addressed to that gentleman.

Enclosed you will receive the Returns of the Municipality of Templeton for the last 6 months of 1852. You will perceive that during that period there has been only one school in that Municipality, but there are at present three in operation, and I have confidence that matters will now go on better there than before.

I proceed up to the Allumett Island this day and will defer making my report upon the document transmitted me until my return from that section.

One great desideratum in this District is the want of teachers. We want at present two, one for Aylmer model school, to whom the Commissioners would be responsible for £75 a year; he would require to possess a knowledge of both languages along with a good commercial education, and I have no doubt were he possessed of a knowledge of the classics that he would realize at least £100 a year, or upwards. The other teacher is wanted for the Buckingham school, salary £60 a year. If you know of any young men wanting situations, perhaps you would be kind enough to direct them to our quarter.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

AYLMER, 2nd April, 1853.

SIR,—I must apologize for not calling upon you the next morning after I saw you at your own residence. The cause was I received a telegraphic dispatch informing me of the illness of my youngest son, who is not yet convalescent, so I departed instantly.

Mr. Sicott's circular has kept back my returns a few days, but I trust they will yet be in time. The circular has been disseminated in this District to the number of 70 or 80 copies, and the answers will of course be very contradictory; it is indeed anything but a proper course to elicit correct information.

I will write you to-morrow. Excuse this scrawl as I am just in time for the mail. I depart in the morning for the Petite nation.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

(True Copy.)

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 9th April, 1853.

SIR,—In my general Report transmitted recently, I omitted to state that several of the municipalities in this county are desirous of your favorable consideration for aid towards the erection of school buildings. In the village of Buckingham, a fine two story building has been erected and conceded to the School Commissioners. The building is intended for a model school. There are besides one in the municipality of Hull, one in St. André, one in Chichester, and one in Sheen, all new buildings, and which have been deeded to the School Corpora-

tion. I cannot, however, but express my opinion that too much caution cannot be exercised in looking after the valuation of buildings, as it appears to me that in many instances in this District much imposition has been practised.

I beg to state that the state of the schools in the newly erected municipalities of Mansfield and Waltham, Chichester and Sheen, are deserving of particular praise both from the qualification of the teachers, the efficiency of the pupils, and the alacrity with which the law is complied with.

A Report has been forwarded to me for transmission to you, but it is defective in point of form, and as the mails are very irregular at this season of the year to that distant part of the Ottawa, a considerable period of time would transpire before a communication could be received, not only owing to this cause but also to the probable absence of the Commissioners at this busy season of the year for lumbering operations. I would therefore most respectfully recommend that the amount accruing to those municipalities be transmitted to George Bryson, Esq., chairman of the School Commissioners, of Mansfield &c., Calumet Post Office, and to James McCool, Esquire, chairman School Commissioners Chichester, &c., Fort William Post Office, Ottawa.

I beg to state that in addition to this being a great boon to those municipalities, it would be a decided encouragement to their acting with renewed zeal in the cause of education for the future.

While on a visit to Buckingham and Lochabar last week, I find from the Secretary-Treasurer of the former that the school money has been transmitted to J. O. Smith, Esquire, Secretary-Treasurer of the dissentient body, instead of Mr. O'Neil, Secretary-Treasurer of the Commissioners, which has caused umbrage to the latter body.

I find renewed zeal and unanimity every day pervading all classes of the community in the cause of education, and trust that next year will increase by two-fold, the number of pupils in attendance at the public schools in this District, as well as shew better qualified teachers.

I beg to request that should the municipality of Clarendon not yet have received its share of the school money for the past six months, that it receive your favorable consideration, as school affairs in that municipality are about being amicably settled. One District alone out of the seven that constitute the municipality was the cause of the trouble there.

As I have to proceed to the upper part of this District to-morrow, no further communication will reach me earlier than the 25th instant.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 11th June, 1853.

SIR,—It affords me much pleasure to state that the cause of Education in the District of Ottawa continues to improve, and I have confidence that ere the close of the present year, a much larger proportion of the juvenile population will be in actual attendance at School than heretofore.

The late disastrous and calamitous fire upon the upper Ottawa, has materially affected that section of the District, nearly one half of the property in four entire municipalities being destroyed by the conflagration. Owing to this circumstance, I fear that I will be under the necessity of soliciting in their favor, for the last half-year, an indulgence in their favor and that the municipali-

ties of the island of Allumettes and Calumet, besides those of Mansfield and Waltham, and Chichester and Sheen, be exempt from the provisions of the Act 9th V. ch. 21, and section 10, which requires each Scholastic to raise an equivalent to the Government Grant.

I have also most respectfully to direct your attention to the amount received by this district from the Common School Fund. If population be the criterion for distribution, our proportion is smaller than it ought to be and the increase which we hope to receive will still be unsufficient for our wants, but small as it is it would inspire our municipalities with such increased confidence in the system, that it could not fail to be productive of the most beneficial results.

In reference to this point I beg to direct your attention to the following paragraph from the Presentment of the Grand Jury of this district, delivered before his honor chief Justice Rolland at the sittings of the Court of Queen's Bench held here last week.

"The Grand Jurors of our Sovereign Lady the Queen would remark that the cause of Education in this District, already manifests palpable signs of improvement, but in their opinion the district does not obtain its due share of the common school grant, the population of the county by the last census being over $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the entire of Lower Canada; the distribution should in their opinion be in the like proportion, this would no doubt operate favourably for the cause of Education.

Application is about to be made from several localities in our district for aid for Building purposes, the burnt district is particularly entitled to consideration, as several of the municipalities had erected commodious school-houses at their own expense.

As I am about to make a tour through the different municipalities, antecedent to the election of Commissioners next month, I defer making any further remarks until my return.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
S. I.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E.,
Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 25th July, 1853.

SIR,—Upon my return from a School Tour this day, I found the enclosed on my desk. It must have been sent me through mistake.

Your other communication will be answered probably to-morrow.

I have, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
S. I.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E.,
Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 13th August, 1853.

SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant, relative to the nomination of several competent persons to form a Board of

Examiners for the District of Ottawa, and I cannot but say that the formation of such a Board has been a desideratum long felt in this District, and its erection cannot but be fraught with the most material advantages to the cause of Education in this district.

The gentlemen whom I have the honor of nominating for your approval are about the best educated, intelligent, and nearly all desirous of carrying into active operation the present School Bill. I may as well state that one of them, Mr. A. Wright, has hitherto maintained a coolness in promoting the cause, and as he is a young gentleman of very considerable influence, I am anxious to win him over if possible.

The names of the gentlemen whom I propose are as follows:—

The Reverend James Hughes, Curé, of Aylmer.

“ John Johnson, Church of England Minister.

The Honorable D. B. Papineau,

Aimé Lafontaine, Esquire, Prothonotary.

J. F. Taylor, Esquire, J. P.

Alonzo Wright, Esquire, J. P.

John Starrs, Esquire.

Three of these gentlemen are Protestants of various denominations, viz: the Reverend Mr. Johnson, Taylor and Wright; the other four are Catholics. The District of Ottawa, by last census, was about two-thirds Catholic, and one-third Protestant, consequently all the denominations will be fairly represented on the Board.

I am at present engaged in making out my Quarterly Report, which will be forwarded in a few days.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

(Signed,) J. J. RONEY, I. S.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

AYLMER, 29th May, 1858.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, of the 20th instant, and have to state that my absence in the lower section of the County, is the cause of its remaining so long unanswered.

I would recommend in my line, the appointment of John Starrs of Buckingham, Crown Land Agent, and an eminent Classical Teacher. I am persuaded he would make a most efficient member of the Board. The Mr. Papineau, to whom I refer, is not the M. P. P. for Two Mountains, but his brother, the ex-Commissioner of Crown Lands, takes a lively interest in the proper working of the School Act, and I mentioned his name, in order to have the French Canadian race fairly represented on the Board. However, his son-in-law, Mr. McKay, the Sec. Treasurer of the Scholastic Municipality of the Petite Nation, would answer equally as well, although the former I am persuaded would act.

The gentlemen, whose appointment I suggested, are made irrespective of any political or religious sect whatever, and I am persuaded are the most eligible in the District.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) J. J. RONEY.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

P. S.—L. M. Couttee, Esq., Sheriff of the District, would likewise make an efficient member of the Board.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 14th January, 1854.

SIR,—Upon my return from the lower section of this District last evening, after a scholastic tour, your letter of the 5th instant was put into my hands.

I must not only express my surprise, but must emphatically record my indignation at the insulting and impertinent letter addressed to you by Donald McGillis, chairman of the School Commissioners of the Allumettes Island; it is, however, consoling that none of the other Commissioners have signed the document in question, and I can assure you that none of them would be so base as to affix their name thereto. It need not be supposed for an instant that this letter was written by Mr. McGillis himself, he is wholly incapable of penning such a document. It was concocted by a party, and for party purposes; Mr McGillis being made a tool upon the occasion.

Now, to the charges contained in Mr. McGillis' letter. I informed you in my last Report that I had proceeded to the Allumettes Island, had investigated the matter in question, and although the Commissioners did not in every instance comply with the letter of the law, still the majority of them, who were the cause of giving a larger amount to a certain school District than it was entitled to, consented to refund it at the end of the year, an arrangement which was satisfactory to all parties, and that I will see will be strictly complied with.

Mr. McGillis' charge, relative to my non-visitation of the schools upon the Island since last February, is not only untrue, but is contradicted by himself in his own letter addressed to you. In a paragraph of that letter he states that, although I repaired to the Municipality in question, "I left without effecting an arrangement of the matter."

Perhaps Mr. McGillis is under the impression that it is part of the duties of the Inspector to visit each and every inhabitant, and although I make it a point of visiting such of the Commissioners as I can find, still I do not think a general visitation of all a part of my duty.

I cannot close this part of the correspondence without smiling at the allusion of Mr. McGillis to the decline of education in Lower Canada; he is unacquainted with any part of the Province except the Upper Ottawa section, and I can procure the signatures of the entire of the scholastic District in which Mr. McGillis resides, and will do so, to prove that education never progressed so well there as during the past 18 months.

I trust you are as unconcerned as I am relative to a newspaper correspondence; the last gentleman who attempted that species of amusement in this District has since done ample satisfaction, and expressed his regret at the circumstance.

With regard to the letter of the Commissioners of Mansfield and Waltham, you will perceive from my last Report that I am as anxious as they are to see that they receive their share of the Legislative grant, and I offered them an advance myself until they could receive the same. It is difficult in those remote Municipalities, and particularly when they are thinly settled, to see a quorum of the School Commissioners; upon my last visit I could only see two of them, but I will use every exertion, without delay, to have the proper documents made out and forwarded to you.

I am likewise similarly anxious about Chichester and Sheen.

I proceed without a day's delay to the Municipalities on the River Gatineau, after which I will proceed westerly.

The number of schools in the lower section of the District is precisely the same as last winter: there is an increase in Petite Nation and Buckingham; but a slight diminution in the Townships of Templeton and Lochabar, which, however, I have reason to know will be immediately remedied.

I trust you have received the proper documents from Buckingham and the Petite Nation, for aid towards their respective Libraries. The inhabitants of the

former Township have a very fine Library, as you will perceive from my certificate to their Secretary-Treasurer. In fact, it is consoling to witness the prosperous state of education in these two Municipalities.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, MANSFIELD, 10th February, 1854.

SIR,—Might I request as a particular favor that you would remit the amount accruing to the Municipality of Mansfield and Waltham, at your earliest convenience?

The non-compliance of the Commissioners of this Municipality with the Provisions of the 4th clause of the Act, 12 Vict., chap. 50, will be attended to in future.

I have now nearly completed my tour in this remote section of my district, and will forward you a report of the same instantly.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMEY, May, 1854.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith my yearly report of the state of Education in the District of Ottawa.

As I am obliged to proceed to town to-morrow, I will take the statistical tables along with me as their bulk is rather considerable to be transmitted by Mail.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OFFICE OF SCHOOL INSPECTOR,

AYLMEY, 1st July, 1854.

SIR,—In the Statutes of Elementary Education published in pamphlet form by Messrs. Derbishire & Debarats, in 1852, an error of a very important nature appears in the 4th clause of the School Act of 1849.

In alluding to the assessments the word "In operation" is introduced instead of inoperative, which renders the clause in question contradictory and absurd.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 26th April. 1854.

SIR,—Having been anxious to inspect minutely, every section of this District, I am somewhat longer than usual in transmitting my Report accompanied by my statistical Returns.

They are now completed, but being somewhat bulky, I have deferred transmitting them by mail, from the circumstance that it is necessary for me to be in Quebec upon the opening of Navigation.

As the first boat leaves Bytown on Tuesday first, my returns will be deposited in your office on Wednesday.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

J. B. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 24th January, 1855.

SIR,—Enclosed is my report for 1854, I have done my best to have my tables forwarded by this days mail, but have been unable, owing to my anxiety to procure an exact census of the population.

They will be forwarded by to-morrow's mail, and I trust no public inconvenience will accrue from the delay.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 12th March, 1855.

SIR,—Owing to a protracted absence in the lower part of the county, and river Desert, your letter was only put into my hands this evening.

I was astonished at your not receiving my Statistical Returns, but from a letter I received simultaneous with yours, the circumstance is easily explained.

I transmitted the Statistical Returns to you duly by A. McDonald, Esquire, of the Chats, when on his way to Quebec six weeks ago, but as he did not touch

at Montreal, but transmitted direct to Quebec by Railroad, he unfortunately had not an opportunity of handing them to you, but retained them in his possession. My object in sending the tables by this source, was to avoid the postage, as the documents are rather bulky.

I have sent for them this morning to Mr. McDonald, and they will be forwarded by to-morrow's mail.

I trust no public inconvenience will accrue therefrom.

I have information of the most satisfactory kind relative to my tour to forward you, which will be transmitted in a day or two.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,

J. B. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

Reports of J. J. Roney, Esquire, School Inspector for the District of Ottawa to the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 1st December, 1852.

SIR,—In transmitting the following report of the state of Education throughout the District of Ottawa, I have to state that a much larger number of Schools are in operation in the Fall and Winter, than in the summer months, and consequently I have deferred transmitting my tabular Returns for a few days, as they would not show a much larger number of pupils in actual attendance than my last, a circumstance which would not be expected, owing to the increase in wealth and in population, but which is easily explained, when it is taken into consideration, that my last tabular Returns were made out for the winter season.

The great extent of the Ottawa district, and the inferiority of the roads, render it even difficult to make an entire tour through the different Municipalities in the summer season, the recent grant however by the Legislature for the amelioration of the public roads in this District, will go far towards remedying this grievance, but the winter is the most satisfactory period for that service, and it is my intention to devote the entire of that season for that object.

The increased grant for Educational purposes, which this District has already received, operates advantageously for the benefit of Education, the alacrity with which the different Municipalities are disposed to raise the equivalent amount which is necessary to obtain the Government aid; I regret however, that in the majority of the Municipalities, the amount is raised chiefly by voluntary contributions and all my efforts to effect a different course to be pursued, have been heretofore unavailing. The opposition, I must say, however, chiefly comes from that section of the population, which is composed of British origin, although the contagion has spread to some extent among the French Canadian population. The cause of the objection to raise the amount by rates, I can very easily account for. The "Old Country population" bring with them to this continent deep-rooted prejudices against Taxation, which may be either imaginary or real, and fatal mistake. They labour under the impression that the School and Municipal Taxes, are analogous to the "Old Country" system of Taxation, hence the opposition.

Immediately upon receipt of your letter, relative to the aid for building purposes, I communicated the same to the different Municipalities entitled to that aid, and they are about adopting immediate steps to obtain the same. The Township of Buckingham has conformed I believe in every condition required, and as that

Municipality has erected a very fine two story building, intended for a model school, I would therefore most respectfully recommend that the amount be forthwith transmitted to Mr. O'Neil, Secretary-Treasurer of the Municipality, or to R. D. Akert, Esquire, the gentleman who has erected the building, and to whom the money is due.

It is a matter of regret that buildings towards which the Bureau of Education has contributed one half of their actual value, and that are intended for Educational purposes, should by the mismanagement of Corporations be sold and alienated from the purposes for which they were originally intended. This has frequently occurred in this District owing to the illegal acts of the Corporations, particularly in the years 1850-51. If action were taken by the Legislature in this matter, and the Government to have a lien on buildings that have received aid from the Bureau of Education, it would undoubtedly be productive of material public good.

A letter of yours bearing date the 5th Oct., and addressed to Mr. John Wright one of the Trustees of the dissentient body here, has been put into my hands, and I feel it my duty to put you in possession of certain facts connected with that body. The school house referred to was one of those that had been formerly deeded to the Royal Institution for the promotion of learning, and had always been in the possession, and solely attended by the children of Protestants in this Village, who constitute one-third of the entire population. After the separation in 1851, the School Commissioners allowed the dissentients to retain the possession of it, and as I stated in a former, the cause of the insolvency of the Corporation was the illegal acts of the Commissioners of 1850-51, and upon their failure to be re-elected as Commissioners in 1851-52, dissented, and contested successfully their own roll of Rates, which had undoubtedly been illegal.

The municipalities of Allumettes, Chichester and Sheen, and the township of Mansfield, suffered greatly last summer, owing to the destructive conflagration on the Upper Ottawa, which destroyed property to the amount of £60,000. I regret to state that no less than four school buildings were burnt in those municipalities, two of which were perfectly new, and many families, in fact a majority of the sufferers, were left perfectly destitute. I have for these considerations, to request that for this season, at least the municipalities of Chichester and Sheen, Mansfield and Waltham, be treated as indigent municipalities, and receive their share of the Government grant for the scholastic year, ending in the month of June, 1852.

Some difficulties occurred in the municipality of Alumenttes, relative to the distribution of the grant, and which were transmitted to you, but upon my recent visit to that quarter, I am happy to state that I adjusted the matter, in a manner satisfactory to all parties. It is to be regretted that your department, already overburdened, should be troubled by trivial correspondence of this nature, and which might very easily be adjusted by the Local Inspector.

In new rural municipalities, it is exceedingly difficult to get the Commissioners to adhere strictly to the exact letter of the law, for the first year, and I have found in every instance this to be the case. I am therefore reluctantly under the necessity of requesting that Masham be relieved from the necessity of raising an equivalent to that which the municipality has a right to receive from your department, and that it be treated as an indigent municipality for the year ending 1st. July, 1853.

In the township of Hull, which is composed in about equal numbers of Catholics and Protestants, matters have not, I regret to say, been conducted by the Corporation in a satisfactory manner to the former denomination. I think I am justified, however, in saying that both parties will agree at the next election of Commissioners, and a fair proportion of both denominations be returned by mutual consent to the Corporation.

Relative to your letter, of the 13th July last, enclosing the communication of Mr. Gardner Church, I must express my opinion decidedly against any amount of the public money being given to the Commissioners, at a per . . . that no law was in

operation there, viz: during the period intervening, between July 1850, and July 1852. During that period they acted decidedly in a factions and illegal manner, and in a manner highly dissatisfactory to the majority of the population of various denominations. Although Mr. J. B. Prentiss purports being Sec. Treasurer during that period, I neither can find Records of the Meetings of the Commissioners, nor any thing whatever, to show that they wished to comply with the law. I regret to have to speak on this matter so plainly and decidedly against the Commissioners, as I have endeavoured to act conciliatory, and to heal the breach between the two parties, which I trust is now nearly adjusted; if it cannot be accomplished, however, and if injustice continues to be perpetrated, then separation will be the only alternative.

I must defer for a few days alluding to the Bristol matter, as the documents were not yet perfected, and I have to make another visit there.

It is to be trusted that much good will accrue from the establishment of public libraries throughout the Province. We have had one in connection with the Fabrique School here, for a period of upwards of two years. It cost the sum of £25, and every volume has been read frequently. The School Commissioners in the different Municipalities have been apprized by me of the contents of your letter, and I have no doubt but they will all avail themselves of the boon. Several of them have already taken the initiative, and will immediately correspond with you.

I will feel obliged by your transmitting me at your earliest convenience the respective sums which each Municipality is entitled to for the present scholastic year.

I herewith transmit the Returns from Templeton, forwarded to me in my absence, but overlooked to be handed to me by my family.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY, S. I.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E., Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 19th March, 1853.

SIR,—The duty devolves upon me of accompanying this, my last yearly Report, not only with a full statement of my operations for the past year as Inspector of Schools for this District, but also with the statistical tables transmitted me, to be filled up as completely as possible; and also, such information as I think will have a tendency to ameliorate the system of Common School education, more particularly in this District.

The County of Ottawa is differently situated for educational purposes to most other Districts in this Province. We have here the largest County in Lower Canada; the area of that part of it erected for educational purposes being about 2,000 square miles, an extent of territory much larger than any of the German principalities, and although the population is considerable, the number of inhabitants being 24,000, or 12 to the square mile. Still, the extent over which the population is scattered operates prejudicially to the advancement of education; besides large Blocks of wild lands are in the hands of Capitalists, who, with few exceptions, resist the law. Notwithstanding, however, these disadvantages, the state of education, as the sequel will show, is neither so defective nor so discouraging as it might, under the circumstances, be.

There are 20 Municipalities in the County of Ottawa, in all which, with the exception of Onslow, the Law is more or less in operation; and I may state, that the fault of the non-operation of the Law in Onslow rests solely with the

Commissioners, who were legally appointed, and against whom the inhabitants are so highly exasperated that they are determined to bring them to justice for their non-fulfillment of their duties.

The total number of pupils in this District, between the ages of 5 and 16, as nearly as I was able to determine, and which will be perceived by reference to the statistical tables, are 6,157, and the total number of pupils actually attending school are 1,462; and the entire population of the county is at present about 24,000 souls; consequently, the attendance is to the population in the ratio of 1 to about 16.

This proportion is infinitely smaller than in many more compact places, but when the extent of the District is taken into consideration, it is very surprising that it is so large.

The following results will appear upon perusal of the statistical tables:

Number of schools in the entire District under the control of the Commissioners.....	54
Number of Model Schools.....	2
Number of Schools under the control of the Dissentients.	7
Number of Independent Schools.....	3
Average salaries of male teachers.....	£50
Average salaries of female teachers with board.....	20
Pupils of french origin attending schools.....	308
Pupils of British origin attending schools.....	1154

The greatest desideratum felt, is the want of good teachers, and until a Normal School be established in this section of the Province, we cannot expect that this want will be remedied.

The establishment of an Academic Institution in this District, is of the utmost importance, and the inhabitants of Aylmer, which is the County Town, are adopting measures for the attainment of that object. Such an institution would go far towards counteracting the want felt in this District by the non-existence of a Normal School in the Province, and would preclude the necessity of the parents and guardians of youth being obliged, at considerable expense, to send their children to the City of Montreal and elsewhere, to complete their studies.

I would most respectfully state that in my opinion, it would tend materially to promote the public welfare, to have a board of examiners appointed in this district; the distance and expense of a journey to Montreal operate as a barrier against teachers, resident at a distance, proceeding there to pass an examination, and obtain a diploma.

I would also beg to state, that it would operate advantageously were the 21st clause of the Act 9 Vict., chap. 27, repealed, which requires a property qualification for School Commissioners.

I have endeavoured, as far as possible, to recommend a uniformity of school books, and it affords me much pleasure to have to state, that the series of works published by the Irish National School Board are in all but universal use.

I regret to state, that several Municipalities have, up to the period of my appointment, overstepped the bounds of the Law, and imposed a larger amount of taxation than the act allowed; the consequence was, that legal disputes ensued and the rate payers successfully resisted that which was illegally imposed. Hence, several Municipalities have involved themselves in difficulties, and owing to their inability to fulfil their engagements with the teachers, the school-houses belonging to the insolvent corporations have been seized and sold to liquidate the debts of the Municipalities. This is more particularly the case in the Municipalities of Clarendon, where four buildings have been sold; while in Aylmer, two are under seizure, and one on the Calumet Island.

While I think it is essentially necessary to limit the powers of the Corporations relative to the amounts of the assessments, still I think an excess of 15 per cent, over the Government allowance, which is the maximum amount than can be assessed by Law, is insufficient, and I would therefore suggest, at least for this District, an alteration in that part of the Law, and confer upon the Municipalities the power of levying an amount commensurate with their wants.

I think it would be advisable to introduce a clause compelling Bailliffs and other subordinates to act; and I would most respectfully suggest that four pence a mile, which is the legal allowance for Bailiffs, is an insufficient remuneration for them.

I have found, in many rural Districts, that female teachers are preferred; and have also found many young females teaching school, whose capacity for teaching was superior to those of the majority of male teachers. Finding this feeling to exist, I have done nothing to discourage it, but have, on the contrary acted otherwise.

I cannot but admit that many of the teachers are imperfectly qualified, but as I have already stated, we must be satisfied with them until we can procure better. The number of well qualified teachers in the District does not, in my opinion, amount to more than one half of the entire engaged in teaching.

The District being as yet, comparatively in a primitive state, very few of the common schools are provided with Maps, Globes, or a Philosophical Apparatus; in fact, with the exception of the Aylmer Model School, I know of none in the District which are so well supplied.

In no school in the County is instruction limited to reading or writing, while in many, the higher branch of arithmetic, geography, and grammar are taught.

I cannot but advert to the unanimity existing between the School Commissioners of the different municipalities and myself, and the disposition evinced by them, in almost every instance, to carry out the principles of the law, and to discharge to the best of their ability, their important duties intrusted to them, by their constituents, in the promotion of the great cause of Education. Such laudable acts entitle them to the greatest praise, more particularly as their duties are arduous and unrequited.

I have made several visits to every municipality, in the District, visited all the schools in operation there, examined the teachers, both male and female, and granted certificates to properly qualified teachers, as instructed. I examined also the children in the different branches of Education, taught in the schools, and made such suggestions as I deemed necessary to facilitate the operation of the Law.

I have found the chief resistance to the effectual working of the Law, coming from a turbulent demagoguery; the well disposed, interested, and intelligent being satisfied that a Law, which imposes a tax upon all real estate for Common School purposes, is the most efficacious that could be devised for a country like Canada.

Upon reference to the monetary dealings of the Municipalities, it will be perceived that the tables are almost a perfect blank; the cause is a want of system. The sole aim of the Municipalities appear to be, to endeavour to raise, in some way or other, an equivalent to the Government Grant, which is generally effected by certain parties contributing more largely than they were entitled to, while others contributed nothing. It is to be hoped that in future there will be more uniformity, and that the contributions will be commensurate with the value of the estate.

These remarks, crude and hastily put together, as they are, shew, however, the actual state of Common School Education in the District of Ottawa, and should the system be continued a year longer, it is to be hoped that the progress will even be greater than the present is, over the past year.

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Remarks.

To find the number of pupils between the age of seven and fourteen, subtract one-third from the number between five and sixteen, the remainder will give the result nearly.

It is to be regretted that very little attention is paid by the inhabitants to public examination in this District.

The amount has in almost every instance, been raised by voluntary contribution; and I have not ascertained the amount received by the different Municipalities, as their respective share of the Legislative Grant.

I have the honor, &c.,

(Signed,) J. J. RONEY, S. I.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 1st May, 1854.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit herewith my annual Report, accompanied with statistical tables relative to the state of education in this District for the last 12 months

My tables are not so complete as those of last year, but I have taken some pains to ascertain the exact number of pupils in the different municipalities between the ages of 5 and 16, from general principles in many instances, and not from census returns, the method adopted by me was as follows: the ratio of increase in this District for the past 10 years is now pretty well ascertained, being about 10 per cent per annum, and the proportion that the youths between the ages of 5 and 16 bear to the lative population being about 33,4 per cent, and although the increase in population was somewhat greater during the past than formerly, still I have not taken this circumstance into consideration, in my calculation of said census.

Although the number of schools in operation is not greater than during the past year, this circumstance is not to be attributed to any apathy on the part of the Commissioners; but to a desire to limit the number of schools in each municipality, not however to limit them so that the public will suffer, but to enable the Commissioners to place themselves in a position to meet their engagements with the teacher, without which instructors of youth cannot be obtained particularly in this section of the Province.

While advertng to the remuneration of teachers, I will not I trust be considered out of place here if I should state that there are several very efficient and well qualified teachers on the Ottawa, who have abandoned that pursuit owing to the inadequacy of their salaries, they can at present obtain at almost any other occupation one dollar a day, and in many instances more can be obtained by working men, while persons competent to keep accounts and overseeing works can easily obtain from 50 to 100 per cent. more, it is not therefore to be supposed that the teacher, under the surveillance as he generally is of uneducated Commissioners and subject to their dictum, will submit patiently to his lot, but will avail himself of every opportunity to ameliorate his condition.

To remedy this therefore, as well as to improve the existing state of things, is a matter of some consideration and one that I take the liberty of offering a few remarks on,

1st. I would recommend a literary qualification for Commissioners as recommended by you in your Report to His Excellency the Governor General, of 8th September, 1852.

2nd. A repeal of that clause of the common school Act which restricts the Corporations to raise the sum of 5 per cent only, over the Government allowance, and to enable them to raise a sum commensurate with their works.

3rd. A general election of school Commissioners every year, this may be objected on the grounds that they will only be commencing to obtain experience in their duties, when their term expires, but in answer to this objection it might be stated that if the public have confidence in them, they will re-elect them.

4th. An increase in the Government grant for common school purposes, and a liberal grant for building purposes and libraries introducing a measure to prevent the alienation of buildings or the seizure of libraries that have received aid from the Government.

These are a few of the remedies that I would suggest as an improvement on the existing state of things, and I may state that I have consulted several of the most influential persons in this District upon this matter, consisting both of clergy and laity and of every denomination of belief.

It has been suggested to me by a gentleman who has devoted much of his attention to this question, the Rev'd Joseph Hughes, of Aylmer, that another improvement on the present law would be to allow every school that is in operation for a period of 9 or 10 months in the year, and that had an average attendance of about 20 or 25 students, not however less than the former, a share of the Government grant, he would however dispense with Commissioners *in toto*, leaving the jurisdiction to Inspectors, whom he proposes to be responsible to the Superintendent of education.

I think I am correct in stating that the general results of the state of education in a District may be satisfactory, although there may be minute errors consisting of disappointments on the part of Commissioners and teachers, and perhaps defects in both; our organization however, as established in rural and other municipalities in Canada, furnishes a vast field for the expansion of administrative knowledge, and is a grand preparatory school for developing the talents of those destined hereafter to occupy a high position in the administration of affairs in this Province.

It is pleasing to be able to state that although the majority of the Commissioners is illiterate still there is a consciousness on their part of the state and character of the schools; and a sincere determination on their part to effect a reform is universally prevalent.

It affords me much pleasure to state that my exertions to obtain a uniformity of Class-books have been attended with complete success, the series published by the Irish National Board of Education are in general used on the Ottawa. There is however this great defect in our public schools, viz: the want of school maps, Libraries, and Philosophical Apparatus, the former are almost unattainable, particularly a map of Canada, there being none published with the exception of Mr. Bouchette's, that is not replete with inaccuracies, and with three exceptions there are no libraries in the district.

The benefits arising from the increase in the amount of the school grant for this district, are only yet beginning to be seen, and I trust I may safely assert that during the last six months of the present scholastic year, there will be no municipality in the district of Ottawa that will not avail itself of the Government boon.

It would tend much to stimulate the friends of the cause in this district to renewed exertions, if a small sum were appropriated for building purposes therein, as well as for aid towards Libraries; I have held out some hopes on this score and I trust that no disappointment will accrue therefrom.

It is much to be regretted that in rural districts there are few school examinations, every individual seems to be too much occupied with his own affairs to devote a moment's leisure to any philanthropic public matter; in villages and populous districts the contrary is however the case.

A Journal of Education established in the city of Montreal and published at a moderate rate in both languages would do much towards the Intellectual advancement of the Teachers, and I am under the impression that few of them would be found in the Province who would not only become subscribers but contributors to such a publication; besides many friends of the cause would also be found who would become contributors as well as subscribers, it might not only be made useful, by this means, but in a pecuniary point of view no loss would be sustained by it.

The board of Examiners for the district has held its first sitting and appointed me their Secretary.

I regret to state that act of incendiarism took place in the Municipality and Township of Bristol, similar to that which I had the disagreeable duty of advertising in my letter of the 30th March, 1853, a second school-house built by the Dissentients of that Township, and situated upon the site of the old one having been burned, no clue can be obtained to the depredators, although a reward has been offered for their apprehension, might I suggest the propriety of the Executive offering a reward for the same object?

The establishment of a Normal School is every day becoming more felt, and I find it to be at the present moment impossible to obtain well qualified teachers, there are now no less than four or five vacancies in this district. I have however much pleasure in stating that His Lordship the Right Revd. Bishop of Bytown is at present giving gratuitous instructions to several young men of the district, and offers to extend the same boon to several others provided they act in the capacity of Instructors of youth.

It is to be regretted that the municipalities in general prefer raising the amount by voluntary contributions instead of by rate, by this means large Blocks of Land in a primitive state held by capitalists pass without paying either school or municipality tax.

It will be perceived that in this district there are 22 Municipalities, covering an area of about 2600 square miles larger than any other constituted district in Canada, and as I formerly observed larger than many of the German or Italian Principalities, and I will here briefly narrate the state of Education throughout this district, and in each of those municipalities.

Maniwaki, River Desert, Gattineau.

This Municipality is composed of the Townships of Hincks, Bouchette, Cameron, Maniwaki and the Township of Egan, now in course of being surveyed, the population of this Municipality not having been taken at the period of taking the last census, I can at present only approximate towards it, I am of opinion that it reaches 120 families, say 650 souls; there is at present only one school in operation, but it is contemplated to have two immediately, a considerable number of Indian children are receiving instruction in the present school which is under the patronage of the Revd. Mr. Deleage.

Aylmer.

There are 4 schools in operation here, one being under the control of the Commissioners and which is one of the best conducted and most numerous attended in the District, one under the Dissentient Body, and two independent Schools, the number in actual attendance in these schools is greater in proportion to the population, than in any other municipality in the county.

Allumettes Island.

There are three schools under the control of the Commissioners, and one independent school in operation here, and this number is as many as can be admissible, this Island being of a considerable extent, and but thinly settled,

much jealousy has existed on the score of the inability of the Commissioners to bring a school to the door of every settler, but the Teachers employed are well qualified and the pupils making considerable progress.

Bristol.

There are three schools under control in this municipality, and one vacant, there is no difficulty existing here, the law being strictly complied with.

Buckingham.

There are three good schools under the control of the Commissioners in this Municipality and four under that of the dissenters in this municipality, all in a healthy and well working state. The model school in the village has an excellent library, maps and philosophical apparatus.

Calumet.

There are at present only two schools in operation, and those of a very inferior kind. The inhabitants here are not only apathetic, but evince no disposition, either to comply with the school act or to educate their children.

Templeton.

There are at present only three schools in operation here, and those of a very mediocre kind. I find it difficult to get the inhabitants to comply with the Act.

Waterloo.

One school in operation as heretofore, both languages being taught. The teacher is well qualified, and the attendance numerous.

Petite Nation.

There are three Municipalities in this seigniory, viz: St. André Arellin, St. Angélique and Bonsecours, in each of which there are two schools numerously attended and well conducted. In fact I have much gratification in stating that in no section of this District is Education more attended to than in this Seigniory, and much credit is due to the Hon. L. J. Papineau as well as the late Hon. D. B. Papineau and F. S. McKay, Esquire, for bringing about this desirable state of things. This township is not sufficiently populated and the settlers are too far apart to have a School. The entire population does not exceed 100.

Masham.

One school only in operation, but the only obstacle towards the establishment of another is their inability to procure a Teacher.

Mansfield and Waltham.

One school in operation in each of these Townships.

Chichester and Sheen.

Two schools are in operation in this municipality, but only one school-house, the other building having been demolished by the destructive conflagration which ravaged with such violence on the upper Ottawa on the 16th May last, the Sheen School-house is one of the first structures of the kind in the County, and the teacher is well qualified.

Low.

One School under control in operation, and one Independent School.

Wakefield.

There is one School in operation here, which, with its small population, is sufficient for the wants of its inhabitants.

Eardley.

Two good Schools are in operation here, and the Law is strictly complied with.

Locharbar.

There are at present four Schools in operation, two of which are in excellent working order. One is taught by an ecclesiastic, who is of course competent to teach classics.

Litchfield.

There are three good Schools in operation in this Township, two of which are under the control of Commissioners, and are neither excelled in discipline, nor for the capacity of the Teachers, to any in the District.

There is at present an insufficient number of Schools in operation in this Municipality for the wants of the population. The cause is the general dissatisfaction existing on the part of one Section of the population towards the Commissioners. The dissatisfied party are, at my suggestion, adopting the only alternative in their power—establishing the dissentient Schools. There are five at present under the control of the Commissioners, besides one Independent School.

Clarendon.

There are in this Municipality four Schools in operation, under the control of the Commissioners, besides one Independent School.

Onslow.

The law has only been very recently complied with, and there are at present three Schools in operation, two of which are under the control of the Commissioners.

In conclusion it may be safely stated that education never can progress in any country without zeal on the part of the population, at present particularly in this section of the Province, owing to the great demand for labour, and other inducements held out to labourers, the entire population seem to be actuated by phrenzie to advance their material interests. Still, however, under these adverse circumstances, education is not so backward as might be anticipated, and I may again reiterate that I trust the liberality of the grant for the district of Ottawa will be duly appreciated, and that they will be stimulated to renewed exertions to carry fully into effect the great cause of national education.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your very obedient servant,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.
S. E. C. E.

J. B. Meilleur, S. E.,
Montreal.

OTTAWA, AYLMER, 1st January, 1855.

SIR,—In transmitting this, my yearly report for the year now last past, I have endeavored to adhere strictly to the spirit of your circular of the 22nd June last.

The immense size, as well as the large population of this district, has caused me a little more delay in procuring correct statistics for this Report than I anticipated. At certain seasons of the year, owing to the state of the roads, it is almost impossible to communicate with the remote Municipalities, more particularly those of Maniwaki and Sheen; hence the delay of this Report.

The result will show that while the district is increasing in population, and rapidly increasing in its material resources, education is progressing in the same ratio. The number of pupils attending the different Common Schools in the district, as well as other institutions, and the increase in the number of those educational establishments, is a complete demonstration of this fact.

In fact no section of Canada has advanced in those particulars with more rapid strides than the Ottawa, but its great extent operates highly prejudicial to the rapid progress of education.

The liberality displayed by the Government in proposing and carrying through the Legislature an increased grant for educational purposes, cannot but be gratifying to the friends of the cause, and it is to be hoped that the liberal action of the Legislature in this matter will be duly appreciated by the inhabitants of both sections of this Province.

It cannot, however, be denied but that, from the advancement of this Province in wealth and population, it was justly entitled to this increased grant, and it is to be hoped that ere long the grant will be still further increased to a sum which the ardent friends of the cause desire, viz., £100,000 per annum.

It may be presumptuous in me adverting to this point, but I am under the impression that I am not acting in a manner incompatible with my duties. The immense sums of money voted by our Legislature for the construction of public works in our Province, and which is highly necessary to develop the resources of our great, prosperous and rapidly increasing country, require the services of numerous corps of competent Engineers and Surveyors, besides those connected with the learned professions, the Senate of the country, agriculture, mechanicism, education, &c., would all have to seek extraneous aid commensurate with their calling, could their own country not supply them with the rudiments of a good sound Common School education. To attain that object, therefore, is the duty and should be the aim of all who wish the welfare of their country.

It might perhaps be of utility to increase the powers, as well as the duties of public functionaries in connection with the department of Education. I will not here advert to what I would consider a limit to these duties and powers.

A uniformity of school books is highly commendable and I have spared no pains to impress that point upon the minds of the Commissioners in every municipality in this District, and I have much gratification in stating that my exertions to accomplish that point have been entirely successful.

It would add much to stimulate the exertions of the inhabitants of School Districts, were an additional sum granted for building purposes.

I regret that the district of Ottawa got no aid whatever towards libraries last year, the brief time that elapsed from the period that the municipalities were aware of the Grant, and the fund being exhausted, precluded the possibility of any one in this district availing themselves of this loan although the municipalities of Buckingham and Aylmer complied with what was requisite, but on application the fund was exhausted. Should the Legislature give another similar grant, it might be preferable to lay aside the amount to which each district is entitled, until it has sufficient time to comply with departmental regulations.

A superior School or Academic Institution is much required in Aylmer, for the general interest, a grant of £100 per annum, has, I understand, been appropriated by the Legislature as aid towards a protestant academy here. The catholics who constitute two thirds of the population of the district and three fourths of that of this village, decline availing themselves of an Education in such a sectarian Institution.

It has been suggested by many that in lieu of the present system, it would be preferable to grant to each school in actual operation for 8 months of the year, a sum of money equivalent to the number of pupils in actual attendance, the school Inspector and Commissioners keeping a strict surveillance over the schools. Many of the best friends of Education approve of the adoption of such a principle, and I must candidly state that I am one of the number.

It is to be regretted that the pecuniary inducements held out to teachers are of such a nature that well qualified persons can scarcely be procured, it is to be hoped however that the increased grant will somewhat remedy this grievance.

It will be my duty to report immediately in favor of some poor municipalities and to request that they receive Legislative aid, upon their compliance with the 5th sect of the Act 12 Vict., chap. 50.

A Journal of Education published in the City of Montreal, and in both languages, could not but be conducive to the cause of Education, as well as to the public welfare generally, and would doubtless receive the aid of all friends of the cause. Perhaps the Legislature could be induced to grant aid to such publication.

I will now give a brief account of the state of education in the different municipalities in this district, describing each *ad seriatim*.

Municipality of Aylmer.

There are 5 schools in operation here, besides 2 Classical and Mathematical Academies; of the 5 common schools only 2 are under control, viz: one under the Commissioners, and one under the dissentient's, the others being free Independent female schools. I regret that the dissentient school was badly conducted during the past year. The teacher was a female one, of inferior ability as a teacher, and the school thinly attended. The dissentients have now, however, procured the services of an excellent teacher. The school under the control of the Commissioners was numerously attended, and conducted by a teacher of high attainments, Mr. Healy. I could, therefore, not conscientiously recommend that a large portion of the Legislative grant be given to the dissentient body.

The classical Institution is conducted by a teacher of high attainments as a classical and mathematical scholar, besides great experience. He has taught in the Seminary of Montreal, in St. John's College, U. S., and in the College of Bytown. The name of this gentleman is Mr. F. Corr.

Municipality of Allumettes.

There are five schools in operation in this Municipality, three of whom are under control and conducted by efficient teachers. Much progress has been made here during the last two years.

Municipality of Bristol.

There are four schools in operation in this Municipality, three of which are well conducted. The remaining one is conducted by a teacher of indifferent habits, but to whom the Commissioners having got into debt, have a difficulty to get rid of.

Municipality of Buckingham.

There are seven schools in operation in this Township, four of which are under the control of Commissioners and three under that of the dissentients. One of the best schools in the County is in the Village, taught by Mr. P. F. Finnegan. There is an extensive library in connection with the school, besides maps and Philosophical apparatus. The Mechanics Institute and Library Association meet weekly during the winter months, in the school room. The other schools in this Municipality are of an ordinary kind not much above mediocrity, if any.

Municipality of Calumet.

There are two poor-schools in operation here, conducted by as poor teachers, and owing to the apathy of both clergy and laity there is a poor chance of improvement.

Municipality of Chichester and Sheen.

It is satisfactory to see that there is not only emulation between those two Townships as to which will have best schools, but in one of them, Sheen, there is one of the best schools in the District. The teacher, Mr. C'Neil, has taught the school for a period of upwards of two years, and much good has accrued to the District from his diligence and ability as a teacher.

Municipality of Clarendon.

There is very little ground for congratulation on the improvement of education in this Municipality. I devoted more attention to it than any other in the District, from the circumstances of its being the most refractory of any in opposition to the school Act, and although they receive the school money with great alacrity, it is with great reluctance they perform that part they are entitled to in order to warrant their receiving the grant. Upon the whole this is the most turbulent Municipality in the entire District.

Municipality of Eardly.

There are two pretty fair schools in operation in this Township, a sufficient number for the population.

Municipality of Hull.

The old feud still exists here between the two different denominations, and the Roman Catholics were obliged to form themselves into a dissentient body last summer, there is not what can be styled apathy existing, but there is not that alacrity which ought to characterize a large, populous and wealthy population like that of the Township of Hull. There are five schools in operation under the control of Commissioners, and a like number under that of the dissentient body. This body, although representing one half of the population, is not yet thoroughly organized, but from what I have seen of it, I augur much from the gentlemen who are its Trustees.

I perceive the commissioners have applied for money for repairs of School Houses, Districts Nos. 14 and 10. I visited the houses in question, and find some repairs done on them, but in my opinion it would be a waste of public money to give a farthing to either. The inhabitants of the District in question are wealthy, and the repairs are comparatively trifling; besides there is no teacher in either at present, nor are any exertions on the part of the settlers making to procure a Teacher. Nothing less would satisfy the rapacity of the inhabitants of the District but the Government procuring teachers for them, paying those teachers, besides

keeping their school-buildings in repair. Other more ready Districts will apply shortly.

Municipality of Litchfield.

It is with much pleasure I have to state that this little Municipality is not excelled by any other in the District, either for competency of Teachers, numbers in actual attendance, or the activity displayed both by Commissioners and the inhabitants in their exertions to further the cause of Education. The Portage du Fort School is a fine institution. The Reverend Mr. Beauvier, Miss McLaren, White and Dr. Parvis use their best exertions to procure good teachers for this institution.

Municipality of Lochaber.

There are five Schools in operation here, all under the control of the Commissioners, and more exertions have been displayed here lately than formerly. The attendance in winter is greater than in summer.

Municipality of Mansfield and Waltham.

There are two Schools in operation here, one female and one male. A sufficient number for the wants of the population.

Municipality of ———.

This Municipality is somewhat improving. There are four Schools in operation, two of which are under the control of Commissioners.

Municipality of Waterloo.

A very fine School as hitherto under the control of Commissioners.

Municipality of Petite Nation.

There are three Municipalities in this Seigniory, viz: St. André Arellin, St. Bonsecours and St. Angélique. There are three Schools in operation in the former, two in Bonsecours, and three in the latter. The number of children attending these schools is very considerable, more particularly in the two latter Municipalities. Very great progress has been made by the pupils attending school there.

In one of the Districts in St. Bonsecours the school has been in operation little more than a year, and already several are able to write, cipher, and have even made progress in Grammar and Arithmetic.

The late Honorable D. B. Papinenu and Mr. F. S. McKay have done much good in furthering the cause of Education in this Seigniory.

Municipality of Templeton.

Three Schools exist in this Municipality, which is very large, two of these only are under the control of the Commissioners. I would like to see a little more alacrity displayed here, and regret that such is not the case.

Municipality of Wakefield.

There are two good Schools in operation here, one under the control of the Commissioners; the latter is numerously attended and well conducted. The Revd. M. McGoey is indefatigable in his exertions here.

Municipality of Low.

Two Schools are in operation here : one under the control, and one independent ; this being a small Municipality, very little can be expected from it.

Municipality of Masham.

There is as yet only one School in operation, but another french School will be commenced immediately.

The following result will appear upon perusal of the Statistical Tables, and from the report.

	SQUARE MILES.
Extent of the District of Ottawa.....	4,000
“ “ Scholastic District.....	2,180
Population of the District.....	28,500
School Municipalities in the District.....	22
Dissentient “ “ “	3
Number of School houses.....	67
“ “ “ Districts.....	78
Total number of Educational Institutions.....	81
Elementary Schools.....	71
Number of Scholars.....	1,860
Model Schools.....	2
Number of Scholars.....	125
Principal Girls School.....	
Number of Scholars at do.....	
Academies.....	2
Number of Scholars at Academies.....	40
Independent Schools.....	6
Number of Scholars at Independent Schools.....	96
Total number of Scholars of all Schools.....	2,121
Number of Scholars in 1st and 2nd books.....	1,352
“ “ reading well in 3rd and 4th books..	450
Number of Scholars reading fluently.....	769
“ “ “ able to write.....	1,150
“ “ “ Learning simple Arithmetic.....	450
Learning compound “	410
“ Geography.....	160
“ History.....	145
“ English Grammar.....	450
“ French.....	60
Scholars knowing analysis of Speech.....	208
Number of Teachers.....	81
Number of Male Teachers.....	58
“ “ Female “	23
Average Salary of Teachers.....	£80, 75, 60, 50, 40
“ “ Mean.....	£57
Average of Female Teachers.....	£24 and Board.

I have with great care and pains ascertained the population of this District. Its increase is very great since last census ; in fact it is astounding. it must however be taken in consideration that there were many Townships on the river Gatti-neau, that were omitted altogether at the last census. These Townships were Hincks, Cameron, Bouchette, Maniwaki and Egan, besides all the settled parts of the river du Lièvre North of Portland, settlements on the Petite Nation river,

and the Township of Thorn, North of Clarendon. The public improvements at the Chats as well as immigration has also swelled the number considerably.

These data will clearly show that we have no reason to despair for the cause, but on the contrary the most cheering prospects are in prospective. The public already begin to see that the Legislation of the County is directed to this great and important topic, and in proportion as it is directed, will the inhabitants themselves act with like energy.

I have the honor, &c.,

J. B. Meilleur, Esquire, S. E. C. E.,

J. J. RONEY, I. S.

Letters of the Superintendent of Education for Lower Canada to J. J. Roney, Esquire, School Inspector for the District of Ottawa.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 28th June 1852.

SIR,—I think it to be my duty to draw your particular attention upon the school affairs of Templeton, especially in the manner they were done before that Township was divided into two separate scholastical Municipalities.

The school Commissioners of Templeton are accused of having transmitted false school returns to this office previous to said division and after, and of having received their share of Government grant contrary to Law, up to the first six months of 1851, inclusively. A thorough investigation on the matter is required. You will therefore hear the witnesses pro and contra. Consult especially Eustache Hébert on the subject.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
Aylmer, County of Ottawa.

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 17th September 1852.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you that the erection of scholastic Municipalities, and the nomination of School Commissioners for the same, recommended by you, having been proposed by me to the Governor General, His Excellency has been pleased to approve them.

I have written this day by post to the parties interested in order to give them the same information, and I hope that you will be kind enough as to see that the information reaches them and that they begin to act accordingly.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
Aylmer.

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, October 27th, 1852.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an advertisement of the Sheriff of Ottawa Circuit, in the Canada Gazette, announcing the sale of certain lands, and tenements, belonging to the School Commissioners of the municipality of Clarendon, at the suit of one Wm. Cunningham, school teacher.

Being very anxious to prevent, if possible, the sale of the said lands and tenements, I think it my duty to communicate with you on the subject, to that effect.

It appears from the books of this Department that the said School Commissioners received from the Government the following sums of money, as an aid towards the construction of the said school houses, in question, viz :

No. 1.—	£49	10	0
" 5.—	25	0	0
" 6.—	24	0	0
" 8.—	25	0	0

£123 10 0

Now, it is clear that, in the event of the same being disposed of, the Inhabitants of Clarendon will lose, not only their School houses, but all chance of ever receiving any further assistance from the Government towards the building of others, the fund for that purpose being entirely exhausted.

I wish, therefore, that you would take immediate action in the matter, and impress upon the inhabitants the necessity of preventing their school houses from being sold, and their children thereby deprived from all participation in the benefits of education.

I am of opinion that lot No. 4, under any consideration, cannot be sold, for the Crown can intervene and establish its undoubted rights to the same.

In the meantime you must enquire into the matter, and ascertain how it happens that the said Cunningham holds a claim against the aforesaid Commissioners, who so long as they reported their schools to this Office, that is, up to July, 1849, received regularly their share of the Government grant. This grant was allowed them for the express purpose of paying their teachers, and they should not have employed it otherwise. It is, therefore, evident that there has been gross mismanagement on the part of the School Commissioners of Clarendon, if not to say more.

Perhaps you might effect some arrangement between the Commissioners and the friends of education, and the plaintiff, whereby delay would be allowed for the payment of the debt, or borrow an amount to pay off the same.

The School Acts, I am sorry to say, have not been in operation in Clarendon for the last three years. This state of things must be remedied, and some means adopted to set the law into effectual operation.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 17th November, 1852.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 11th instant, accompanied by your Report on the state of education in the County of Ottawa, and I am happy to see that through your able instrumentality, it is likely soon to improve a great deal. You cannot do too much to attain that object.

I have sent, on your recommendation, the share of the Legislative grant to the School Commissioners of Templeton.

With regard to the aid prayed for towards the building of school houses, I must wait for some information from the Executive, before saying anything on the subject to the parties interested.

I should be very happy to see you and Mr. Bouchette, undertake a map of all the British possessions on this continent, for the use of our schools. Provided it could be afforded at a reasonable price. The price of the last map of Mr. Bouchette was a great deal too high for common purposes.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLIEUR,
S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer,
County of Ottawa.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 3rd February, 1853.

SIR,—I have the honor to send you the enclosed document for your examination, decision and report to the office upon the matter in question.

I cannot recommend you too much to look out sharp every where in your county, with the view of settling the school acts to work effectually, the more so, because the public opinion has already been expressed in a very unfavorable manner on that all important subject. Please to take, however, what I now say in good part.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 11th February 1853.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform you, for the guidance of the parties interested, that His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased, in virtue of the 1st clause of the Act 12 Vict., chap. 50, to erect the new Township of Low, County of Ottawa, into a separate scholastical municipality, whose limits will be the same which are already assigned to the said Township.

His Excellency was also pleased to appoint Reverend T. O'Boyle, Mathew Brennon, Joseph Daly, Andrew McDonnel and Caleb Brooks, School Commissioners for said Municipality.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
Aylmer, County of Ottawa.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 17th February, 1858.

SIR,—I think it to be my duty to send you the enclosed copy of a letter, which I have received on the subject of School Affairs, in your jurisdiction, because it deserves your immediate and particular attention, as School Inspector.

Please to endeavour to cause every subject, even any pretence of complaint to disappear entirely. Your last communication was duly received.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. RONEY, Esq.,
School Inspector, Aylmer, County of Ottawa.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 2nd April, 1858.

SIR,—Please to transmit your report as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. RONEY, Esq.,
Aylmer, County of Ottawa.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 14th April, 1858.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 9th instant, received this day, I have the honor to say that the recent Act, appropriating a certain sum to assist in the building of School Houses, being wholly at the disposal of the Governor in Council, I can but recommend to His Excellency, to come in aid to the Scholastic Municipalities, mentioned in your letter, to the end of granting them a share of said sum for that object. I will not fail to do it.

With regard to a grant asked in favor of the New Scholastical Municipalities, mentioned in your letter, it can be made only after a new division of the General

Legislative Grant between all the Scholastical Municipalities, in proportion to their respective population after the last census.

But the share of said grant which had previously been apportioned to the Municipality of Clarendon has been sent for the first part of 1852, to the Secretary Treasurer of that Municipality, on the 7th of March last.

I hope you will renew your efforts to set the School Act to work in an effectual manner, throughout your jurisdiction, and thus avert the consequences of the want of success in the arduous task devolved upon you, as School Inspector.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. RONEY, Esquire,
School Inspector,
Aylmer, County of Ottawa.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 31st October, 1853.

SIR.—The School Commissioners of Bristol, have transmitted to this Office a document in support of their demand of an aid for the building of a School House. But the amount to be granted for that object, in the District of Ottawa, being divided in the manner communicated to you, since several months, and the remainder of the sum appropriated to assist in building being wholly placed elsewhere, I have nothing left at my disposal to come in aid to Bristol, except we can take from some other localities in Ottawa, a part of the sum destined for them. I leave it to you to see if it is practicable, and to which extent.

The aid prayed for is for School House, No. 6, in Bristol, and the value of said house is said to be £56.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST.
Montreal, 10th December, 1853.

SIR,—According to your demand, accompanying your report of the 1st instant, I have the honor to transmit to you herewith the list of various shares in the annual legislative grant of the Municipalities under your inspection.

As to the poor Municipalities to which you refer, in same document, they will be considered as such, provided they conform themselves to the enactment of the 5th Clause of the 12th Vic., cap. 50.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 5th January, 1854.

SIR,—I think it to be my duty to refer you the enclosed letters, so as to induce you to lose no time in assisting to set the parties interested into the right path.

The School Commissioners of Mansfield cannot legally claim any share of the Government grant for the last six months of 1852, because their scholastical Municipality was not included in the division of said grant then in force after the general census of 1844. They can claim their share of said grant only since and for the year 1852, as being included in the new division of said grant, after the last general census.

Please to make them understand that, and convince them that I have no legal power to do otherwise, for I am bound to divide the said grant between all the Municipalities in proportion to their respective population, after the last census, according to the 35th clause of the Act 9, Vic., cap. 27.

With regard to the difficulty in Allumettes, on account of the manner in which the School Commissioners have divided the School grant, it is evident they have acted contrary to the 14th clause of Act 12 Vic., cap. 50, and that I had no power of redress, especially because when I was informed of their manner of acting, it was too late to interfere. I was informed of it on the 10th October last, by a letter from Mr. McGillis, dated 26th September.

However, I think the School Commissioners can be made liable to an account, for they have no right to pay a single penny to teachers of independent schools. I hope you will endeavor soon to repair to the place and advise with the parties concerned, and let me know the result of your visit to both places, at your earliest convenience. There is no time to be lost.

I have the honor to be, Sir

Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

CHICHESTER, January, 1854.

SIR,—The School Commissioners of Chichester and Sheen, beg leave to represent:

That on the 16th May last, the day of the calamitous fire which visited this section of the country, the school house that had been erected by the inhabitants of division No. 2, was totally destroyed, together with stores and books belonging to that school. This misfortune is much to be regretted as the school at the time was in full operation and in a very prosperous condition. This deplorable event of course was the means of putting an end to the school which had been regularly kept and attended for 6 months, up to that period by more than sufficient scholars to entitle them to the Government bounty, as in such cases provided. The Commissioners are of opinion that although the full time was not completed to legally constitute a claim on the Legislative grant for the teachers salary, (which is in consequence still unpaid) that the division is justly entitled to its proportion, as an equal amount has been raised in the division by voluntary contributions.

The school house was valued by yourself at £30 currency. Therefore if compensation could be made for it, the inhabitants would feel themselves en-

couraged to rebuild and start a new, as without such assistance they are unable to do so, their own individual losses having left them in destitute circumstances and unable to do so without this assistance.

Your early attention to this matter and a reply at first convenience will oblige.

Sir,

Your obedient servants,

(Signed,)

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JOHN McDONALD,
JAMES McCOAL,
THOS. HARRINGTON,
AUGUSTIN PERRAULT.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector,
Aylmer.

OTTAWA, CHICHESTER, 13th February, 1854.

Sir,—The enclosed memorial from the school Commissioners shows that a fine school house was burnt during the dreadful conflagration of last summer, and the inhabitants are now so prostrated by that calamity, that they are unable for some time yet to erect a suitable building. The building destroyed was in my opinion worth about £30, it is alleged to have cost £39; and I always found the school in active operation and conducted by a respectable and worthy teacher, Mr. Donaghue. The inhabitants have only been able to erect for themselves temporary buildings to save them from the inclemency of the weather, and consequently could not be expected to erect another suitable school building.

Mr. Ponpore, the proprietor of the Chichester mills, besides giving a considerable donation to the last building, gave also 1 acre of ground for the same.

Under these circumstances therefore I would most respectfully suggest that, if it could by any possibility be done, it would be an act of the greatest public utility, besides of charity, to give the amount accruing to this township for building purposes to enable the inhabitants to erect a new building.

Mr. Ponpore has charge of the Government appropriation of last session for the opening out of public roads in the upper section of this county, and consequently would in every way be a responsible person; should you be able therefore, consistently with public duty to accede to this request, I would most respectfully recommend that the amount be transmitted to that gentleman.

I must apologize for communicating from every municipality, but I find it necessary to do so as I proceed on my route. In fact, in those remote localities, we must endeavour to be as indulgent and liberal as possible, and is consistent with public duty, and I am gratified to say that there is a growing tendency in these remote parts of the Ottawa in favor of the law.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed,)

J. J. RONEY,
School Inspector.

Dr. Meilleur, S. E. &c.,
Montreal.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 1st April 1854.

SIR,—I have to request you to be pleased to send me with the least possible delay your statistical tables, for I need them immediately to complete my report on education for the Government.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 3rd April, 1854.

SIR,—I am sorry to be obliged to trouble you again about existing difficulty in Allumettes, and I may add that I am sorry to be troubled again myself about it. It should have been settled before this time, and you will remember that I have referred to you to that effect all the documents I received in this office on the subject.

I refer to you again the letter enclosed, and I beg you would be pleased to endeavour to settle amicably the said difficulty, at your earliest convenience. I now write to Mr. P. Phelan that I have referred to you his letter.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 12th May, 1854.

SIR,—I most sincerely regret not to have received as yet, your report now due for some time, together with your Scholastical tables.

I cannot complete my report for parliament, for want of said documents, and a member of the executive was here to day, requesting for all the necessary information on the subject of public instruction.

I have the honor to request again, therefore, to send me forthwith, your report and scholastical tables.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 15th July, 1854.

SIR,—Some typographical errors having taken place in my circular, No. 9, I send you another copy of it corrected.

The newspaper you have handed to me, the other day, is a proof of the *apropos* of the said circular, and that we should do everything in our power to silence the opponents, by setting the school Act to work everywhere effectually.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient servant,

MEILLIEUR,
 S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
 School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 16th September, 1854.

SIR,—I think it proper to send you the enclosed document, because it apparently was intended for you.

I have the honor to be,
 Sir,
 Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
 S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
 School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 16th October, 1854.

SIR,—As I have not, as yet, received any statistical table from you for 1853, I hope you will not fail sending me one as complete as possible, at your earliest convenience.

If you accompany the said table with a report, I wish you terminate it by a resumé of the table, item by item, so as to expose the whole in your report.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
 Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
 School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 19th January, 1855.

SIR,—I am still waiting for your report and statistical tables for 1854, and have to request you therefore, to send them to me, at least the said table without delay, otherwise I shall have to report you to the Government.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
Montreal, 13th February, 1855.

SIR,—I have to request you again to transmit me the statistical tables which you owe me for 1854.

You easily understand that I cannot report to the Legislature without complete documents, and that, if M. M. the School Inspectors neglect to send me, in time, those which they are held to transmit to this Office. I will be in the impossibility of fulfilling my duty.

I hope you will be pleased to send me without delay the statistical tables you owe me; I need them immediately, and my labor is suspended for want of them.

I know that, in transmitting your last report, you wrote me that you would send me your statistics the next day, but I never received them.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR, S. E., C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.

EDUCATION OFFICE, EAST,
MONTREAL, 17th March, 1855.

SIR,—In answer to your letter of the 12th instant, received yesterday, I have the honor to say that I have not, as yet, received your statistical tables, nay not even one since you have been in office, which puts me to a great inconvenience.

In the mean time, I regret having to say that the inhabitants of several municipalities of your jurisdiction complain of your insufficient administration.

I avail myself of this opportunity to draw your attention upon the inclosed complaint against the School Commissioners of Calumet, and to request you to be pleased to endeavor to redress the grievance complained of, at your earliest convenience, and make me report.

Some inhabitants of Clarendon, praying for an aid for a school house, and complaining of the inefficiency of voluntary contributions for the support of elementary schools in that Municipality, I consider it to be my duty to refer their

complaint to you, in hope that you will be pleased to endeavor to set the school law to work effectually in that Municipality.

You will soon receive a circular ordered by the government, which I recommend thus by anticipation, to your most earnest attention.

I have the honor to be, sir,
Your obedient servant,

MEILLEUR,
S. E. C. E.

J. J. Roney, Esquire,
School Inspector, Aylmer.